Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Amended) In a mobile storage system including one or more movable storage units and a drive arrangement associated with each storage unit for moving the storage unit in response to manual operation of an actuator, the improvement comprising:

a torque limiting mechanism interposed between the actuator and the drive arrangement, wherein the torque limiting mechanism is operable to prevent application of an actuating force to the drive arrangement exceeding a predetermined threshold;

wherein the actuator includes a manually operable handle interconnected with the drive arrangement by means of an input shaft, and wherein the torque limiting mechanism includes an input member interconnected with the input shaft and a force-transferring arrangement interposed between the handle and the input member for transferring an actuating force below the predetermined threshold from the handle to the drive arrangement through the input member, and for preventing transfer of an actuating force exceeding the predetermined threshold from the handle to the drive arrangement through the input member;

wherein the force-transferring arrangement comprises one or more selective engagement members engaged with the handle and with the input member, and wherein the one or more selective engagement members comprise one or more spherical engagement members engaged with the handle and with the input member by means of engagement structure associated with the input member and with the handle, wherein each engagement member is normally in an engaged position in which the engagement member is engaged with the engagement structure of the input member and the handle.

9. (Original) The improvement of claim 8, further comprising a biasing element for urging each engagement member toward its engaged position.

10. (Original) The improvement of claim 8, wherein the handle is removably mounted to a hub and wherein the engagement structure associated with the handle is formed on the hub.

11. (Original) The improvement of claim 10, wherein the hub defines a passage within which the input shaft is received.

12. (Original) The improvement of claim 11, further comprising a retainer arrangement for retaining the hub on the input shaft, wherein the hub and the input member define spaced, facing surfaces within which are formed the engagement structure associated with the input member and the engagement structure associated with the handle.

13. (Previously Amended) In a mobile storage system including one or more movable storage units and a drive arrangement associated with each storage unit for moving the storage unit in response to manual operation of an actuator, the improvement comprising:

a torque limiting mechanism interposed between the actuator and the drive arrangement, wherein the torque limiting mechanism is operable to prevent application of an actuating force to the drive arrangement exceeding a predetermined threshold;

wherein the actuator includes a manually operable handle interconnected with the drive arrangement by means of an input shaft, and wherein the torque limiting mechanism includes an input member rigidly mounted to the input shaft and a force-transferring arrangement interposed between the handle and the input member for transferring an actuating force below the predetermined threshold from the handle to the

drive arrangement through the input member, and for preventing transfer of an actuating force exceeding the predetermined threshold from the handle to the drive arrangement through the input member;

wherein the torque limiting mechanism further includes a hub, and wherein the hub defines a passage within which the input shaft is received, and further comprising a retainer member engageable with the input shaft for maintaining the hub in engagement with the input shaft, and wherein the force-transferring arrangement is operable to selectively couple the hub to the input member.

14. (Previously Amended) In a mobile storage system including one or more movable storage units and a drive arrangement associated with each storage unit for moving the storage unit in response to manual operation of an actuator, the improvement comprising:

a torque limiting mechanism interposed between the actuator and the drive arrangement, wherein the torque limiting mechanism is operable to prevent application of an actuating force to the drive arrangement exceeding a predetermined threshold;

wherein the actuator includes a manually operable handle interconnected with the drive arrangement by means of an input shaft, and wherein the torque limiting mechanism includes an input member interconnected with the input shaft and a force-transferring arrangement interposed between the handle and the input member for transferring an actuating force below the predetermined threshold from the handle to the drive arrangement through the input member, and for preventing transfer of an actuating force exceeding the predetermined threshold from the handle to the drive arrangement through the input member, wherein the force-transferring arrangement comprises a friction disc interposed between the handle and the input member.

15. (Original) The improvement of claim 14, further comprising biasing means for biasing the handle toward the input member so as to couple the handle to the input member through the friction disc.

16. (Original) The improvement of claim 15, wherein the handle is engaged with the input member through a threaded member engageable with the input member, and wherein the biasing means comprises a spring washer arrangement engageable with the threaded member and with the handle, wherein adjustment of the threaded member relative to the input member functions to adjust the biasing force applied by the spring washer arrangement for varying the frictional engagement of the handle with the input member through the friction disc.

17-24. (Canceled)